

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15 (Canceled).

16. (New) A checking device for checking an operator of an apparatus, the checking device comprising:

image storage means for storing a check image for checking the operator;

5 registered data storage means for storing location data of a registered checking point set to the check image, the location data representing relative coordinates of the checking point with respect to an origin of the check image;

10 display means, having a display screen, for displaying the check image based on a preset location of display coordinates on the display screen;

a) attaining means for attaining coordinates of a point designated by the operator on the display screen;

15 detection means for detecting relative coordinates of the designated point on the check image displayed on the display screen based on the preset location of the display coordinates, from the coordinates attained by the attaining means;

20 comparison means for comparing the relative coordinates of the designated point detected by the detection means with the relative coordinates of the registered checking point represented by the location data stored in association with the check image; and

check control means for determining that the operator is authorized to use the apparatus when a difference between the relative coordinates of the registered checking point and the relative coordinates of the designated point is within an allowable range.

25 17. (New) The checking device according to claim 16, further comprising update means for updating the display coordinates location, which determines where the check image is displayed, such that the location at which the check image is displayed is altered.

21 18. (New) The checking device according to claim 17, wherein when no designation is made by the operator on the display screen on which the check image is displayed, the display location of the check image is periodically altered.

19. (New) The checking device according to claim 16, wherein:

the registered data storage means stores a display size of the check image;

5 the display means displays the check image in a predetermined display size; and

the comparison means compares (i) a ratio between the relative coordinates of the designated point detected by the detection means and the display size of the check image with (ii)
10 a ratio between the relative coordinates of the registered checking point and the display size of the check image.

20. (New) The checking device according to claim 16, wherein:

a)
a respective check image and a corresponding registered checking point set to the check image are prepared for each one
5 of a plurality of programs, and are stored in the image storage means and in the registered data storage means according to the corresponding one of the plurality of programs; and

when any of the plurality of programs is activated, the corresponding check image is selected for display, and checking
10 of the designated point is performed based on the registered checking point corresponding to the activated program.

21. (New) A computer-readable recording medium which stores a program for controlling a computer to perform the steps of:

storing location data of a registered checking point which is set to a check image in registered data storage means, the
5 location data representing relative coordinates of the registered checking point with respect to an origin of the check image;

displaying the check image on a display screen based on a
preset location of display coordinates;

attaining coordinates of a point designated by an operator
10 on the display screen;

detecting relative coordinates of the designated point on
the check image displayed on the display screen based on the
preset location of the display coordinates, from the attained
coordinates;

15 comparing the detected relative coordinates of the
designated point with the relative coordinates of the registered
checking point stored in association with the check image; and

determining that the operator is an authorized operator when
a difference between the relative coordinates of the designated
20 point and the relative coordinates of the registered checking
point is within an allowable range.

22. (New) A checking device for checking an operator of an
apparatus, comprising:

image storage means for storing a check image used for
checking the operator;

5 registered data storage means for storing location data of a
registered checking point set to the check image, the location
data representing relative coordinates of the registered checking

point with respect to an origin of the check image, and for storing a display size of the check image;

10 display means, having a display screen, for displaying the check image based on a preset location of display coordinates on the display screen in a predetermined display size;

attaining means for attaining coordinates of a point designated by the operator on the display screen;

15 detection means for detecting relative coordinates of the designated point on the check image displayed on the display screen based on the preset location of the display coordinates, from the coordinates attained by the attaining means;

20 comparison means for comparing (i) a ratio between the relative coordinates of the designated point detected by the detection means and the display size of the check image with (ii) a ratio between the relative coordinates of the registered checking point and the display size of the check image; and

25 check control means for determining that the operator is authorized to use the apparatus when a difference between the two ratios is within an allowable range.

23. (New) The checking device according to claim 22, further comprising update means for updating the display size of the check image, such that the display size of the check image is altered.

24. (New) The checking device according to claim 23, wherein when no designation is made by the operator on the display screen on which the check image is displayed, the display size of the check image is periodically altered.

25. (New) A computer-readable recording medium which stores a program for controlling a computer to perform the steps of:

5 storing location data of a registered checking point which is set to a check image, the location data representing relative coordinates of the registered checking point with respect to an origin of the check image, and storing a display size of the check image;

10 displaying the check image in a predetermined display size on a display screen based on a preset location of display coordinates;

attaining coordinates of a point designated by an operator on the display screen;

15 detecting relative coordinates of the designated point on the check image displayed on the display screen based on the preset location of the display coordinates, from the attained coordinates;

comparing (i) a ratio between the detected relative coordinates of the designated point and the display size of the check image with (ii) a ratio between the relative coordinates of

Application No. 09/508,826
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

20 the registered checking point and the display size of the check
image; and

Q' determining that the operator is an authorized operator when
a difference between the two ratios is within an allowable range.
